

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS FULL TEXT TO LES JANKA

1. HERewith FULL TEXT LAURENCE STERN FRONT PAGE BYLINER, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, WASHPOST HEADLINED: FBI RECORDS DISPUTE STAND BY KISSINGER.

2. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S ACCOUNT OF HIS ROLE IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY WIRETAPPING CONTROVERSY IS HARPLY CONTRADICTED IN A SERIES OF FBI MEMORANDA--OME LABELED "TOP SECRET"--OBTAINED LAST NIGHT BY THE WASHINGTON POST.

3. THE DOCUMENTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY MEMBERS OF HE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, PORTRAY KISSINGER AS A PRIME MOVER IN THE 1969-1971 WIRETAPS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EWSMEN.

. KISSINGER HAS REPEATEDLY PROCLAIMED THAT HIS OWN ROLE UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS PRIMARILY TO TARGET SUBORDINATES WITH ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS FIGURING IN FOUR MAJOR NEWS LEAKS EARLY IN 1969 WHICH AROU - ED THE CONCERN OF THE PRESIDENT, THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN . MITCHELL AND THE LATE J. EDGAR HOOVER, FBI DIRECTOR.

BUT THE DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY WASHINGTON POST STAFF WRITERS BOB WOODWARD AND CARL BERNSTEIN SHOW THAT IS WAS KISSINGER WHO PHONED HOOVER ON MAY 9, 1969, AND STARTED THE CHAIN OF SURVEILLANCE WHICH LED TO THE TAPPING OVER A 21-MONTH PERIOD OF 13 HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT FFICIALS AND FOUR NEWSMEN.

6. A HOOVER MEMORANDUM ON THAT DAY REPORTS THAT KISSINGER ALLED HIM TO COMPLAIN OF "AN EXTRAORDINARILY DAMAGING" EWS LEAK--BELIEVED TO BE THE NEW YORK TIMES ACCOUNT OF THE SECRET BOMBING OF CAMBODIA--AND ASKED THE FBI DIRECTOR TO PUT "WHATEVER RESOURCES I NEED TO FIND OUT WHO DID THIS."

7. KISSINGER, IN HIS SURPRISE NEWS CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG YESTERDAY, INDIRECTLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE CONVERSATION WITH HOOVER BUT SAID THAT PRIOR PRESS ACCOUNTS TOOK THE INCIDENT OUT OF CONTEXT.

8. HOOVER, IN HIS OWN MEMORANDA TO THE FBI FILES, HAS EMONSTRATED A TENDENCY TO PUT THE MOST FAVORABLE CONSTRUC- TION ON HIS OWN ACTIONS.

9. NONETHELESS, THE FBI MEMORANDA CONFLICT WITH SEVERAL KEY ELEMENTS OF KISSINGER'S DEFENSE. AN INTERNAL FBI MEMO, PREPARED BY THE FBI FOR ACTING BUREAU DIRECTOR WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS ON MAY 13, 1973, SAID: "IT APPEARS THAT THE PROJECT OF PLACING ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AT THE REQUEST OF THE WHITE HOUSE HAD ITS BEGINNING IN A TELEPHONE CALL TO MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER ON MAY 9, 1969, FROM DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER."

10. THE TOP-SECRET MEMORANDA FROM HOOVER TO MITCHELL LIST KISSINGER AS THE INITIATOR OF REQUESTS FOR THREE WIRETAPS --TWO OF CLOSE AIDES TO KISSINGER AND ONE ON A NEWSMAN SUSPECTED OF HAVING RECEIVED CLASSIFIED MATERIAL.

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11. THESE RECORDS ALSO INDICATE THAT ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS PRESIDENT NIXON HIMSELF, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MITCHELL, ORDERED TAPS ON A TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT AND A WHITE HOUSE AIDE. IN THE CASE OF THE AIDE, WHO WAS NOT NAMED IN THE MEMORANDUM, MR. NIXON ALSO ORDERED DIRECT PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE.

12. THE FBI DOCUMENTS STRIKE AT TWO KEY ALLEGATIONS BY KISSINGER--THAT HE SAW "VERY FEW" OF THE WIRETAPPING REPORTS HIMSELF AND THAT HE STOPPED RECEIVING THEM IN JUNE, 1970, WHEN, ACCORDING TO KISSINER'S VERSION, THEY WERE ALL ROUTED TO FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF

H.R. (BOB) HALDEMAN.

13. ACCORDING TO THE MEMORANDA 37 LETTERS SUMMARIZING CONTENTS OF THE WIRETAPS WERE DIRECTED TO KISSINGER BETWEEN MAY 13, 1969, AND MAY 11, 1970. THE FBI REPORT ALSO ALLEGES THAT KISSINGER "RECEIVED" SUMMARIES OF THE TAPS AS LATE AS DEC. 28, 1970.

14. IN SALZBURG YESTERDAY KISSINGER MADE WHAT COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATION OF HIS EARLIER DECLARATIONS IN SWORN TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT HE HAD NOT REQUESTED ANY WIRETAPS.

15. "THE POINT I AM MAKING," HE SAID, "IS MY OFFICE DID NOT INITIATE ANY REQUESTS FOR WIRETAPS THAT WERE NOT TRIGGERED (EMPHASIS ADDED) EITHER BY A SECURITY VIOLATION OR BY FULFILLING THE CRITERIA OF ADVERSE INFORMATION IN THE SECURITY FILES..."

16. IN THE FBI REPORTS, AS SUBMITTED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, THE WHITE HOUSE AIDES AND NEWSMEN WERE REFERRED TO ONLY BY CODE LETTERS--"N" AND "O" AND "G" AND "B". IT COULD BE DETERMINED FROM DESCRIPTIONS OF THEIR ROLES ON THE STAFF THAT N IS MORTON HALPERIN, O IS DANIEL DAVIDSON, G IS LT. GEN. ROBERT E. PURSLEY AND B IS HELMUT SONNENFELDT. HALPERIN, DAVIDSON AND SONNENFELDT WERE MEMBERS OF KISSINGER'S NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF AND PURSLEY WAS FORMER SENIOR MILITARY ADVISER TO SECRETARY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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DEFENSE MELVIN R. LAIRD AND PREVIOUSLY TO SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE CLARK CLIFFORD AND ROBERT S. MCNAMARA.

17. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE CLOSE TO THE WIRETAPPING CASE, ONE THING ALL FOUR HAD IN COMMON WAS THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH INTERNAL GOVERNMENTAL OPPOSITION TO THE VIETNAM WAR. THIS SOURCE SAID THE THREE CIVILIANS DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE NEWS LEAKS WHICH TRIGGERED THE PHONE SURVEILLANCE.

18. THE MEMO PREPARED FOR RUCKELSHAUS ON MAY 13, 1973, CONCLUDES THAT "A PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE VARIOUS SUMMARIES FURNISHED TO THE WHITE HOUSE (SHOWS) NOTHING WAS FOUND WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW WAS DETERMINED FROM THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE COVERAGE..."

19. IT SAID SUMMARIES OF THE WIRETAPS "ARE FULL OF EXAMPLES OF CARELESS AND LOOSE TALK ABOUT MATTERS BEING HANDLED IN THE WHITE HOUSE BY PERSONS IN THE WHITE HOUSE ON WHOM COVERAGE WAS PLACED."

20. THE REPORT SINGLED OUT WIVES OF THE STAFFERS FOR "DISCUSSING THEIR HUSBANDS' WORK UNNECESSARILY. FOR EXAMPLE, IN ONE CASE MRS. (DELETED) IN A CONVERSATION WITH A CEMETERY LOT SALESMAN REVEALED THAT HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN WORKING LONG HOURS PREPARING A SPEECH FOR PRESIDENT NIXON TO DELIVER SHORTLY."

21. RUCKELSHAUS, IN A MAY 14, 1973, PRESS CONFERENCE, SAID HIS INVESTIGATION EXONERATED "MOST IF NOT ALL" OF THE TARGETED OFFICIALS.

22. HOWEVER, AN FBI MEMO DRAFTED FOR RUCKELSHAUS THE PREVIOUS DAY SAID THAT KISSINGER, AFTER READING THE LOGS OF THE WIRETAPS ON MAY 20, 1969, SAID TO FORMER FBI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WILLIAM SULLIVAN: "IT IS CLEAR THAT I DON'T HAVE ANYBODY IN MY OFFICE THAT I CAN TRUST EXCEPT COLONEL HAIG." THE MEMO WENT ON TO SAY THAT KISSINGER "SAID THAT WHAT HE WAS LEARNING AS A RESULT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COVERAGE IS EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO HIM WHILE AT THE SAME TIME VERY DISTURBING."

23. ACCORDING TO A PREVIOUSLY UNDISCLOSED SUMMARY OF THE FBI EVIDENCE BY THE STAFF OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, ALEXANDER M. HAIG JR., ORDERED TAPS OF THREE OF THE FOUR NEWSMEN. "KISSINGER HAS TESTIFIED," THE SUMMARY SAID, "THAT THE NAME OF ONE OF THESE THREE WAS PRESENTED BY FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER TO THE PRESIDENT AS A MAN WHO HAD CONNECTIONS WITH AN ALLIED FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. THE DECISION TO PLACE A TAP RESULTED FROM THAT REPRESENTATION."

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24. ONE OF THE TAPPED NEWSMEN, LONDON SUNDAY TIMES WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT HENRY BRANDON, IS BRITISH. THE OTHER T THREE, HEDRICK SMITH OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, WILLIAM BEECHER, FORMERLY OF THE TIMES, AND MARVIN KALB, CBS DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS.

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25. IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO KALB, THE SUMMARY SAYS: "THE FOURTH NEWSMAN WAS A NATIONAL TELEVISION COMMENTATOR. HE WAS WIRETAPPED AT THE DIRECTION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MITCHELL. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATED THAT THE COMMENTATOR BE PLACED UNDER IMMEDIATE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE FOLLOWING THE REVIEW BY THE PRESIDENT OF AN FBI REPORT ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL.

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26. "MITCHELL ALSO REQUESTED PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE OF THE COMMENTATOR, BUT WITHDREW THIS REQUEST AFTER BEING ADVISED BY THE FBI OF THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED."

27. THE OTHER INSTANCE OF PRESIDENTIALLY ORDERED SURVEILLANCE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AT FORMER WHITE HOUSE AIDE JOHN SEARS. IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO SEARS, THE COMMITTEE SUMMARY SAYS: "IN ADDITION TO ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE ON (HIM), RECORDS REVEAL THAT THE FBI ALSO CONDUCTED A PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE...

28. "ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL COVERAGE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT WHEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CALLED AND SAID THE PRESIDENT UNCLASSIFIED

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HAD ORDERED HIM TO TELL THE DIRECTOR (HOOVER) THAT HE WANTED A 24-HOUR SURVEILLANCE AND A TAP ON (THE) SUBJECT.

29. IN THE MEMORANDA SEARS IS REFERRED TO ONLY BY THE INITIAL "E."

30. THE FBI MEMORANDA HEIGHTEN THE SHARP CONTRADICTIONS AND FINELY NUANCED AMBIGUITIES WHICH SURROUND THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S ROLE IN THE WIRETAPS.

31. UNTIL NOW THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON KISSINGER'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE WIRETAP AFFAIR WAS DELIVERED BY FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARDSON AT THE SECRETARY'S NOMINATION HEARING LAST SEPT. 10.

32. ASKED POINT-BLANK BY SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN J. W. FULBRIGHT (D-ARK.) WHETHER KISSINGER HAD SPECIFICALLY ORIGINATED THE WIRETAP REQUESTS, RICHARDSON REPLIED:

33. "ALTHOUGH HE IS IDENTIFIED IN THE FBI RECORDS AS HAVING REQUESTED TAPS DIRECTLY OR THROUGH HAIG, MY DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. KISSINGER HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT HE WAS NOT THE ORIGINATOR, IN THE FUNDAMENTAL SENSE OF THE WORD, OF ANY OF THESE TAPS."

34. KISSINGER TESTIFIED THAT THE WIRETAPPING PROGRAM ORIGINATED EARLY IN MAY, 1969, IN A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT, HOOVER AND MITCHELL TO DISCUSS WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE 1969 LEAKS.

35. THE PRESIDENT, KISSINGER TESTIFIED, "WAS TOLD THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD WAS TO APPLY PROCEDURES THAT HAD BEEN FOLLOWED ALSO IN PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS, THAT IS TO

SAY, TO TAP INDIVIDUALS ACCORDING TO SPECIFIED PROCEDURES ... AT THAT TIME I HAD BEEN IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR FOUR MONTHS AND I MUST SAY IT DID NOT OCCUR TO ME TO QUESTION THE JUDGMENT OF THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS (MITCHELL AND

HOOVER)."
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36. IN HIS TESTIMONY KISSINGER SAID: "I NEVER RECOMMENDED THE PRACTICE OF WIRETAPPING. I WAS AWARE OF IT, AND I WENT ALONG WITH IT TO THE EXTENT OF SUPPLYING THE NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO HAD ACCESS TO THE SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS IN QUESTION.

37. "DESPITE SOME NEWSPAPER REPORTS, I NEVER RECOMMENDED IT, URGED IT, OR TOOK IT ANYWHERE. INDEED, THE THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO DO THIS IN THE FOURTH MONTH OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION WHICH I JOINED AS AN OUTSIDER IS IN ITSELF INCONCEIVABLE."

38. WHEN FULBRIGHT PRESSED ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER KISSINGER TOOK THE INITIATIVE "ON ANY TAP . . . EVEN A SINGLE ONE," HE REPLIED:

39. "NO . . . NOT IN THE SENSE THAT I SAID 'TAP THIS INDIVIDUAL.' I CARRIED OUT THE CRITERIA OF A PREVIOUS DECISION. THERE COULD HAVE BEEN, AS I POINTED OUT, A DIFFERENT PERCEPTION BY THE FBI." (END TEXT.) SISCO

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